



GARFIELD PARK ARTS CENTER



Garfield Park Art & Music Festival DEI Initiative

Providing diversity, equity, and inclusion within a creative space is at the core of the Garfield Park Art & Music Festival. Our goal for this event is "to showcase and celebrate local talent in the art and music scene in a diverse, inclusive, and equitable way, by highlighting and uplifting artists and musicians who are BIPOC or often underrepresented." What this means for us:

- We aim to recruit a diverse, volunteer-run committee with individuals from the Garfield Park neighborhood, people of color, individuals from the LGBTQ+ community, and folks from the local music and arts communities.
- We aim to curate an art fair that has diverse representation of art mediums, levels of artists (emerging to professional), and diverse cultural backgrounds. We also keep our artist vendor fee much lower than your average art fair to keep it from being a barrier for artists to participate (and invite artists to communicate with us, if it does present a barrier). We want our artists to be successful and make money!
- For our musicians, our lineup is 1/3 curated and 2/3 selected from open applications, so we can give all local musicians the opportunity to apply for our event. Because our goal is to uplift underrepresented voices in the music scene, we set our criteria for evaluating applications to fit this goal. We want to highlight womxn, LGBTQ+, and BIPOC-led bands and give them platforms that the music industry often does not. We also emphasize original music and local musicians only, and we stay true to that. Lastly, we want to make sure our musicians are equitably paid (even though our budget is a work in progress) because we respect the artistry and effort that goes into a performance, no matter the time slot.
- We keep our event free and all ages. We also don't censor artists, musicians, or performers, but let them know the event is family-friendly. Similarly, we try to communicate to our guests that while our event is family-friendly, we support artists' rights to express themselves freely.

Ultimately, we want to create a safe and welcoming space for all involved. Our internal conversations revolve around ways our event can do more for underrepresented artists and musicians by acknowledging the societal bias towards race, ethnicity, gender identity, socio-economic status, and/or ability. With a volunteer-run planning committee and a small budget based on donations and sponsorships, we know we have a lot of work to do to keep the festival growing and sustainable, but we are committed to our mission and hope those who work with us also share similar goals.

Sincerely,
The GPAMF Committee

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